# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1010
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
SETTING UP OF INFORMATION CENTRE
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a centre at Panchayat level for providing information regarding agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The Government has approved a Scheme in the Department of Information Technology for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and private services in rural areas. The Scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership mode.

The total outlay of the Scheme is estimated at Rs.5742 crores, including the cost of establishment of CSCs and their operation for four years thereafter. The Government support in the form of viability gap funding is estimated to be Rs. 1649 crores, with the balance coming from private sector investments.

The services to be delivered under the CSC Scheme are primarily to be delivered by State Governments. Various States are at various levels of e-enablement of their backends for delivery of e-governance services. These services would be e-enabled gradually by the State Governments and the States are responsible for prioritizing which of the government services, including agriculture, are to be provided through the CSCs and in what manner.

Development of computer based application packages on agriculture for providing information/services to the farming community is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India under its DACNET initiative and by the States under the AGRISNET initiative funded by the DAC.